

COURSE OF STUDY IN THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

Sir.—The publication of those designs for which premiums have been awarded by the School of Design, is certainly the best way to enable the public to come to a right conclusion as to the capacity of the masters, their mode of instruction, and the progress made by their pupils. The public are certainly indebted to your paper (No. 135), for giving them so practical a proof of the incapacity of the masters, the little progress made by the pupils, and the wretched designs. *The Illustrated London News* has published several of these premium designs, and if we except some few sketches made by the female pupils, whose innate taste for what is elegant and beautiful enables them better to skip over the stumbling blocks placed in their way, the whole of them are of the same indifferent character.

You must be aware, Sir, that if the School of Design had proper masters—those who were able to illustrate the first principles of design on the black-board (the only way by which any great body of pupils can be taught)—the authors of such designs would get more kicks than halfpence.

You know that I have no connection whatever with the School of Design, and that what I have stated is an unbiased opinion. I have had great experience in teaching youth, and I know it requires the unwearied attention of the most able masters to ensure the slightest success.—I am, Sir, &c., M. I. B. A.

. We have refused insertion to several letters on this subject in favour of the management, because they throw no additional light on the question; and we must pursue the same course with those of its opponents. We have received another communication from Mr. R. Burchett, but for the above reason do not print it. As regards the present condition of the school, he says:—

"In March, 1843, the last month of Mr. Dyer's directorship, there were in the evening school, as entered in the Register of Attendance kept in the school, 220 students.

In the same month, March, 1845, after two years of Mr. Wilson's directorship, with the lure of 200 guineas then forthcoming for prizes, the number in the evening school was 210, being a decrease of 10; and in July last, at the time of the private pie-nick exhibition of productions—so desperately forced and fudged up for the occasion—the evening school consisted of no more than 114;—showing a falling off of 106!! from the number in the evening school at the time Mr. Dyer was forced by persecution to leave the institution. There is no denying these facts. They can be verified by any student in the school."

BOOKSELLERS' PROVIDENT RETREAT.

On the 4th inst., the first stone of a structure for the reception of aged and infirm persons who are members of the Booksellers' Provident Institution, was laid at Abbot's Langley, Herts, by the Earl of Clarendon. The situation is beautiful, overlooking the London and Birmingham Railway, and the interesting old church described in last week's *BUILDER*. The structure is to consist at first of seven houses, after a design in the early English style of architecture, by Mr. Cooper; and, in addition to the dwelling apartments in the central house, there will be a large room for the use of the committee, and a commodious hall as a place of general meeting for the inmates, which is also to be fitted up as a library.

We have not seen the design; some who have, speak badly of it.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH WINDOW.

We learn that the committee have sent special instructions to Mr. Wallis that he is to take out of his design *every thing Gothic*. As well might you tell a man who brought you a French book when you wanted an English one, to take out of it every thing French. The window is essentially Gothic,—*scholly* Gothic, and no alteration can possibly fit it for St. James's church. Can nothing be done to induce the committee still further to modify their original determination, and so avoid the lasting annoyance they will otherwise lay up for themselves? They *know* they are in error, yet fear to retrace their steps.

EFFLUVIA FROM SEWERS.

Sir.—It is with great pleasure I peruse your continual advocacy of that necessary and essential requisite for the health of towns, namely, proper and sufficient, as well as systematic ventilation; there however appears to me one grand thing yet wanting, to provide a more cleanly, wholesome, and invigorated atmosphere without, the consideration of which I shall but slightly discuss in my present letter; but as soon as I shall be in possession of the requisite statistical data, I will enter more fully into the consideration of this important subject, a subject becoming every day more interesting, as the present system of sewerage and drainage becomes more extended or improved.

The powerful and requisite enactments contained in Lord Lincoln's Bill for "Improving the drainage &c., of towns," I need hardly quote, having already been conspicuously before the public, and most ably commented on by the different journals; suffice it to say, the more such measures are enforced, the more favourable will be the result of the plan I am about to propose.

It is quite unnecessary to remind any person accustomed to traverse the streets and alleys of this great metropolis, more especially the confines of the city, of the noxious and offensive gases and effluvia, continually arising from the "gully-holes" and other openings connected with the sewers; and to such an extent (especially before heavy rains) do these gases and effluvia arise, as to be perfectly visible under the form of a vapour, causing epidemic and not unfrequently the worst symptoms of malaria in the immediate neighbourhood. What I would venture to propose is as follows:—"Let every man-hole, gully-hole, or other open communication with the sewers be trapped, so as effectually to prevent any effluvia from arising therefrom; but in order to get rid of the effluvia, which must necessarily arise from the vast accumulations in sewers, I should propose the erection of columns at large thoroughfares, or grand connections of sewerage (carried to a height above that of the surrounding neighbourhood), which are to be connected with the sewers, and let the gases which arise either be consumed by fire at the top by jets of gas, or be carried away by the influence of the atmosphere. I have thus briefly brought before your notice a plan, which I am confident, if brought fully and properly into operation, would greatly benefit all classes of the community, and cannot see any difficulty in the plan (saving the expense), as the all-powerful Commissioners of Sewers have power granted them "to take any property, upon proper compensation, that may be deemed desirable for the improvements in sewers, &c.," added to which, these erections of columns might be turned to a variety of useful as well as ornamental purposes the consideration of which will form a part of my next letter. J. L.

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NEW BUILDINGS ON HAMPTHEAD HEATH.

—Sir Thomas Marvyn Wilson having determined upon erecting a number of villas on Hampstead Heath, the ceremony of laying the first stone was performed last week by his sister, Mrs. Drummond, in the presence of a large party of friends and a considerable number of the inhabitants. The new buildings are to be distinguished by the name of "East-park." Mr. Gwilt is the architect, and assisted at the ceremony. It is said that East-park will not in any way whatever encroach upon the heath, or any of those portions of Hampstead to which the public are in the habit of resorting for recreation.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN SINKING A WELL.

—Accidents frequently occur to persons while employed in digging wells; sometimes through the gross ignorance or carelessness of the operative, at other times through the false economy of the master in not allowing sufficient timber to span the work securely. A case occurred last week at Whitechapel, near Charnmouth, when a poor man while pursuing his labour, was buried under upwards of ten waggon loads of soil and stones. Assistance was instantly obtained to extricate him, if possible alive, but the attempt was ineffectual; there is no doubt that he met with instant death.

THE FRUGAL INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION.

The first subscription meeting of the shareholders in this association was held, pursuant to public advertisement, at the Hall of Commerce, Threadneedle-street, on Tuesday afternoon, the 2nd inst. The meeting was very numerous and respectfully attended. The president, Mr. John Neale, took the chair, and Mr. Edward Smith, the solicitor, explained the principles and proposed advantages of the association. It is based upon the provisions of the Friendly Societies, Act 4 & 5 Wm. 4, c. 40, and contemplates the following objects:—

1. Investment of capital in 1000 shares, payable by monthly instalments of 1*l.* per share.
2. Pecuniary advances to the members (only) on mortgage of real or personal security, or both, accompanied by a life policy of assurance, they paying a redemption or anticipatory fee of 5*s.* per share per month.
3. The advance of the whole 100*l.* on each share to those members who anticipate the discount or bonus:—that is, the amount agreed to be sacrificed by the member upon his share, as the competition bidding is not deducted from the 100*l.* all at once (as in the case on a sale of shares in building societies), but is spread over the whole period of the association by equal monthly instalments.
4. The certain termination of the society at the expiration of eight years and four months.
5. An annual division of the profits in which both borrowers and capitalists, namely both classes of the members, participate, so that the borrower is not prejudiced as such by availing himself of the society's pecuniary resources by anticipation. Various questions were asked by the gentlemen present to elicit further explanation, and several hundreds of the shares (which are limited to 2,000), were then taken, and the first monthly subscription of 1*l.* per share paid thereon. The next monthly subscription meeting was announced for the 2nd Tuesday in October, at the same place.

FREE ADMISSION TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

We mentioned a fortnight ago, that a memorial had been forwarded to Sir Robert Peel, from Lincoln, praying him, in the appointment of the new dean, to have regard to the free admission of the public to the cathedral.* One of the parties to the petition has received a note from the premier, acknowledging the receipt of the memorial. Sir Robert concludes his letter with the following sentiment:—"It will be gratifying to Sir Robert Peel if the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln shall be enabled to give the same facilities for free admission to the cathedral which are given at Westminster and Durham."

Relative to the insolence of the vergers at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, alluded to on a former occasion, we have received a letter of thanks from an influential inhabitant of the town for the reproof of this man's conduct. His incivility, it seems, is complained of on all hands. We shall pay him a visit before long, for the express purpose of observing his behaviour, and shall hope, if only for his own sake, to find an improvement.

From Paris we learn, that the Prefect of Police, having discovered that money was exacted from the persons who came to view the different parts of the Pantheon by the parties who are paid for taking charge of it, has interfered, and insisted upon this abuse being ended.

CALCUTTA CATHEDRAL.—From a statement put forth by the committee, we learn that this cathedral, of which the model is now on view at Guildhall, is 242 feet long, 116 feet wide at the transepts, and 26 feet high from the plane of site. It is further intimated that the whole body of the building, with the tower and spire, is erected, and that the roof is on, but that the internal fittings are yet unfinished. The choir, for the performance of divine service, is 131 feet by 61, and 47 feet high—spanned by an iron trussed roof, and capable of containing 1,000 persons. It is expected that the consecration will take place at the close of next year, or very early in the following, should the state of the funds admit.